THE

STATUE ROOM;

AN

HISTORICAL TALE.

VOL. I.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE STATUE ROOM;

AN HISTORICAL TALE.

BY

Miſs *BALLIN.*

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

"Love his golden ſhafts employs; here lights
"His conſtant lamps, and waves his purple wings:
"Here reigns and revels in court amours,
"Mixt dance, or wanton maſk, or midnight ball.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

Counteſs of Duncannon.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to preſent you with a youthful flower of imagination, ſprung up on an uncultivated ſoil, and unmanured by the ſolar beams of *experience*. As ſuch I offer it to your Ladyſhip; and rely, for pardon, on the known clemency of your diſpoſition. Should you deign to approbiate this ſmall

ſmall work of fancy, it will be ſome alleviation to the fears, which agitate the boſom of,

Your Ladyſhip's,

moſt obedient,

and moſt devoted,

humble ſervant,

ROSSETTA BALLIN.

Swan Street,
Jan. 24, 1790.

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

PREFACES are of late become ſo univerſal, that they are nearly as cuſtomary as a title page. Being, therefore, willing to follow the general precedent, I addreſs a few lines to my indulgent readers, (as I hope they will be).

In the firſt place, it may not be amiſs to inform the reader, That the ſubject of this little production was originally a manuſcript in a gentleman's library in

in the country; where an intimate friend of the author had read it with a great deal of pleaſure. The evening previous to an intended application for making it public, the houſe and library were unfortunately conſumed by fire, To my friend, therefore, I conſider myſelf indebted for the principal traits contained in the STATUE ROOM.

To authenticate the tale, I need only refer my readers to hiſtory; with which many of the incidents perfectly coincide.

The ſolicitations of many of my acquaintance, to throw me on the public eye, has at laſt gained the aſcendency over my inclinations; though not entirely abated my ſcruples. But I confeſs, that had I not been ſomewhat captivated with

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the narrative, I ſhould not ſo readily have endeavoured to connect it.

The following ſheets, then, are publiſhed with the view of affording ſome ſmall entertainment; at leaſt it is the ardent wiſh of the author, that they may prove ſo.—Not but ſhe fears, that the defects will in ſome degree counter-balance any ſmall merits they may contain—yet ſhe ſubmits herſelf to the generoſity of the public; and with patience ſhe will endeavour to bear the fate her firſt offspring ſhall receive—Be gentle then, kind reader; and if candour be your characteriſtic, I rely on it for indulgence.

The illiberal criticiſm, which I may, perhaps, receive from ſome of my acquaintance, I ſhall eſteem beneath my

my notice; ſince forward critics will always find matter for cenſure in every thing. And as the firſt literary productions for merit, are by ſome treated with irony; how can I expect, for ſuch an attempt as mine, to eſcape the laſh.—Impoſſible!—yet thoſe who only peruſe the following pages, in order to ridicule—from them may they be excluded.—They are laid, with ſubmiſſion, at the feet of thoſe, who are in poſſeſſion of that pleaſing endearment,

SYMPATHY.

THE

THE STATUE ROOM.

BOOK THE FIRST.

Are we not early taught to mock at pain,
And look at danger with undaunted eye?
But what are dangers, what the ghaſtlieſt
Of death itſelf—— [form

ROMAN FATHER.

MOST people are acquainted with the divorce of Henry the Eighth; but it is not ſo generally known that the unfortunate Queen was with-child when the King, her huſband, put her away. She was delivered, in her baniſhment, of a Princeſs; the

birth of whom, ſhe took great care to conceal; juſtly fearing, that Anne Bullen, who was very powerful with the King, would make uſe of every inſinuating artifice to deſtroy her: nor could ſhe promiſe to herſelf any compaſſion for her daughter, at a time when ſhe was ſo cruelly treated herſelf.

The Dutcheſs of Norfolk, who always had a great ſhare of the Queen's confidence, willingly bore her company in her diſgrace. Catherine conceived, therefore, that there was none with whom ſhe could entruſt her daughter's education ſo well as with her, who had ever been ready to attend her in her misfortunes.—The Dutcheſs received the precious pledge, with exquiſite joy; and ſhe was highly pleaſed with having found a mean

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of diſcovering to the royal mother the extreme affection ſhe had for her, by the tender care which ſhe would take of the young Princeſs.

CATHARINE hoped, that if the condition of her fortune would ever change, the young Adelfrida might prove a new bleſſing to perfect her coaleſcence with the King. But, after ſeveral unſucceſsful endeavours to move his heart, ſeeing that there was no longer hopes of ſucceſs, ſhe thought of nothing more than to compoſe herſelf for death; which the rigours of baniſhment, from day to day, ſerved effectually to advance. After languiſhing for five or ſix months, and finding that ſhe had but a very ſhort time to live, ſhe called for the Dutcheſs, whom ſhe informed of

her approaching diſſolution, with as firm and peaceable a countenance, as if ſhe was telling ſome indifferent tale. The Dutcheſs, who loved her with a tenderneſs not to be imagined, fell down at her bedsfeet, and melting into tears, conjured her not to abandon the hopes of ſo precious a life.

"IT is too miſerable," ſaid the Queen, "to fear the loſs of. I am long ſince prepared for death; and if any thing could afflict me, in departing this world, it would be to leave behind me my little Adelfrida; who, it is poſſible, will inherit her mother's diſgrace. Though I am well aſſured, that you will take all poſſible care of her; yet I cannot but fear, leſt the cruelty of her enemies may ſteal her from your precautions; and leſt the

the whole courſe of her life, may take after the unlucky hour of her birth. I therefore conjure you to be always a mother to her; and to do your utmoſt endeavours to prevent, if poſſible, the conſequences of ſo fatal a prognoſtication."

She then called for the Princeſs, who was not above ſix years old; and took out of a caſket a ſealed letter, and a table-book ſet with diamonds, which ſhe gave to the Dutcheſs, without diſcovering to her what were the contents of them. "It may be," ſaid ſhe, "that affairs will change, and that the King will repent his uſage of me, before he dies. If it ſo happen, as I hope it will, I intreat you, by the remembrance of your friendſhip, to ſee him, and preſent him with my little daughter; and diſcover to

him the whole ſecret of her birth. The letter and the table-book, which I put into your hands, will give authority to all that you ſhall tell him; and a teſtimony, ſuch as yours, will leave no uncertainty." Then, ſtruggling with her weakneſs to embrace the little Adelfrida, ſhe made her withdraw; fearing, leſt the Dutcheſs's conſtancy would not be able to undergo ſo exquiſite a trial. She then renewed the gift ſhe had made her of her daughter.

THE Dutcheſs hearkened to all that the Queen had ſaid to her, without making her any anſwer, becauſe ſhe had no power to do it; but obſerving the Queen, on ſudden grow faint, ſhe ſunk under the violence of her grief, and fell into ſo profound a lethargy, that it

was

was difficult to judge which of the two was dying. The Queen expired a few minutes after; and the Dutcheſs came to herſelf again only to endure the moſt bitter ſorrow, by being informed of the exit of the beſt of friends, and the moſt amiable Princeſs in the world.

It will be uſeleſs to give a deſcription of her grief: ſuffice it, therefore, to ſay, that time, which triumphs over the moſt violent afflictions, gave her no comfort; and, if ſhe deſired to ſurvive the Queen, it was only to acquit herſelf of the commiſſion which was entruſted to her.

What Catharine prognoſticated on her death-bed, actually came to paſs. The King, being oppreſſed by a diſeaſe, which he

thought would be mortal, he began to repent himſelf of the ſtrange extremities he had exerciſed towards her; and, by the honours which he paid to her memory, he endeavoured to repair the injuries he had done her, during her life-time.

The Ducheſs of Norfolk, who had voluntarily remained in exile, was informed of the diſeaſe of the King; and believed that the time was come for the accompliſhment of the command which ſhe had received from Catharine. She therefore began her journey with the Princeſs Adelfrida; but being very aged, and recollecting her former misfortunes (for ſhe felt the Queen's misfortunes as her own), ſhe fell ſick by the way; and not recover-

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ing without a violent ſtruggle, ſhe arrived at court juſt after the King's death. Her Grace conceived ſo great a ſorrow at this account, that a fatal relapſe followed. She plainly perceived her approaching diſſolution; and the fear of not having time enough left to make a clear diſcovery of Adelfrida's birth, deprived her of all the joys, which otherwiſe ſhe would have received, in quitting a life ſo miſerable as that which ſhe had led, ever ſince the death of the Queen. But reflecting that ſhe had a ſon, who, though very young, was poſſeſſed of fidelity and diſcretion enough to manage the diſcovery when occaſion offered; ſhe called for them both together, and inſtructed them in all that paſſed in the Queen's baniſhment,

niſhment, her lying-in, and death. She gave her ſon the letter and table-book, which ſhe had preſerved, and commanded him to keep them carefully, in order that he might one day have it in his power to render the young Adelfrida all the reſpect due to ſo great a Princeſs.

The Dutcheſs drew haſtily to her end. The Princeſs, not regarding any changes in her fortune, ſo much as the death of this good woman, was totally inſenſible to any thing beſides: and the young Duke's affliction was ſo great, that it cannot be conceived. He had not been able to ſee ſo near him the ſpringing beauties of Adelfrida, without emotion. Their pretended alliance had not deprived him of all hopes of marrying,

rying her; (ſhe paſt for his couſin); but perceiving that all his ſanguine hopes were fruſtrated by this diſcovery, he became a picture of deſpair.

After the firſt tranſports of grief were over, he fell into ſo profound a melancholy, as to render all manner of company inſupportable to him; and that ſorrow, which was the effect of love, was conſtrued into filial affection.

The Princeſs, who was accuſtomed to live with him in the greateſt freedom, often endeavoured to comfort him; and one day, finding him in a more penſive frame than uſual, "Alas!" ſaid ſhe, "will you for ever be in ſo ill a humour? or do you ſuppoſe your tears will reſtore the Dutcheſs, your mother?"

Ah!

"Ah! madam," replied he, "leave me, at leaſt, the liberty of muſing upon my ill-fortune; and deprive me not of the only comfort I find. 'Tis true, that the loſs of a tender dearly beloved mother, is a great reaſon for my affliction; but if that was the only cauſe, I ſhould not, perhaps, be ſo very diſconſolate, and diſtant from hope."

Adelfrida was too much intereſted in what related to the Duke, not to have a deſire to be acquainted with the new cauſe of his ſorrow; ſhe therefore preſſed him to tell it. The Duke, for a while, defended himſelf; but at length he yielded to her importunities.—"'Tis love," ſaid he, "madam, that renders me miſerable; but 'tis an unfortunate paſſion;

paſſion; a love without hope. I have given my heart to a perſon whoſe birth I thought conformable to my own; but in this, alas! I have been miſtaken. My paſſion has been flattered with the moſt ſanguine expectations; but I yielded up my liberty, when I underſtood, that this perſon, was by far my ſuperior; and that I am born to be a ſubject, to whom I pretended to be a huſband. Judge, madam," continued he "after ſuch a conflict, if I muſt not be the moſt miſerable of men." Theſe words were too pointed, and pronounced with too paſſionate an air for the Princeſs not to perceive that he meant her; but pretending not to underſtand him, ſhe only adviſed him to bury in oblivion a love that made him ſo ill-humoured;

ed; and to conſider that woman as a friend, whom he could no longer regard as a miſtreſs.

AFFAIRS were in this condition, when the young King Edward, who had ſucceeded Henry the Eighth, died; and the Princeſs Mary, Catharine's eldeſt daughter, was at length, after ſeveral wars and diviſions, peaceably crowned Queen of England.

THE Duke of Norfolk, remembering the order which his dying mother had left him, thought he ought no longer to delay informing the Queen that ſhe had a ſiſter in exiſtence. He had done his utmoſt to overcome his paſſion; but having been unable to do it, he would have been willing to defer the diſcovery, if it were only to preſerve ſome remains of his

his familiarity with Adelfrida, and not to loſe the ſad conſolation of having it ſome time in his power to doubt of his unhappineſs: but fearing to offend the Princeſs, by that delay, he aſked her permiſſion to attend her to the Queen, in order to diſcover the ſecret of her birth. Adelfrida confented to it with joy. The Duke acquitted himſelf of his commiſſion with all neceſſary fidelity and diſintereſtedneſs. The Queen impatiently opened the letter, which the Duke gave her; and knowing her mother's character, was anxious to read it. She opened it, and found it contained, as follows:

"SIR,

"SIR,

"THE recollection of my "misfortunes and diſgrace, bears "too heavy on my drooping ſpi-"rits; and the grief of my ſoul "muſt ſhortly ſubſide in the ſilent "tomb. I hope that the preſent "I make you, after I have ſtep-"ped behind the human curtain, "will reſtore to me that preci-"ous friendſhip, of which I have "unhappily been ſo long de-"prived, during my life; and that "the little Adelfrida, your daugh-"ter, whom you will receive from "the Dutcheſs of Norfolk's hands, "will be the mean of your re-"membering, with ſome ſenti-"ments of tenderneſs,

"her mother,

"and your faithful wife,

"CATHARINE."

THE

THE table-book contained an account of the day of Adelfrida's birth; and the portraits of the King, the Queen, the Princeſſes Mary and Adelfrida. All theſe evidences were ſeconded by the voice of nature, which ſpoke in Mary's heart. She, without the leaſt heſitation, acknowledged Adelfrida for her ſiſter; and the reſemblance of their faces, together with the various reports that had been circulated through the court, thoroughly convinced her of its truth.

THE will of Henry, in favour of Elizabeth, another ſiſter, made all the world regard her as the preſumptive heir of the crown; but feeling a jealous uneaſineſs at the diſcovery of ſo extraordinary an incident, ſhe conceived a

ſettled diſlike to the Princeſs Adelfrida; which was yet more augmented by her beautiful appearance. As Elizabeth was naturally reſerved and cloſe, ſhe profeſſed, in public, as much friendſhip for her ſiſter, as ſhe felt inwardly hatred; and it was then ſhe began to make the firſt eſſays of that diſſimulation, in which ſhe became ſo great a proficient afterwards. She plainly perceived that as Adelfrida was acknowledged for her ſiſter, the ſucceſſion of the realm would be inſured to her; and that to exclude her, there was a neceſſity of rendering her birth ſuſpected and doubtful. She endeavoured to do this with ſo much dexterity and earneſtneſs, as to cauſe reports to be whiſperpered about to the diſadvantage

of

of Adelfrida: beſides which, ſhe employed men to give out in publick, as well as in private aſſemblies, that the new Princeſs was a phantom and chimera of the Duke of Norfolk's creating; who poſſibly would make uſe of ſuch an impoſture, as a ſtep to aſcend the Britiſh throne. Further, that ſhe proceeded from Queen Mary's averſion to herſelf, whom ſhe had a mind to deprive of her lawful right to the ſucceſſion to the crown; and had created that chimerical ſiſter on purpoſe to wrong her of it. Alſo, that there was no probability that Queen Catharine was with-child when the King put her away; ſince they had not been together for a long time before the divorce: and ſuch an adventure,

was a thing unheard of, but in fable.

Elizabeth ſometimes cauſed all theſe things to be ſaid in thoſe places where ſhe herſelf was preſent; and to diſguiſe her jealouſy more cunningly, ſhe ſeemed not to approve of the reports; and even pretended to contradict them with weak arguments.

In the mean time, the Duke of Norfolk had endeavoured in vain, to free himſelf of the paſſion he had conceived for Adelfrida; ſo that with a glimmering hope he found himſelf unable to reſiſt the tender impulſe of his heart, and the contending ſtruggles of his breaſt. The misfortunes of a man, who loves without hope, and who, nevertheleſs, cannot forbear loving,

ing, well deſerve pity and compaſſion.

The eaſy acceſs which the Duke had to the Princeſs, and the liberty of diſcourſing familiarly with her before ſhe had been acknowledged the Queen's ſiſter, were ſome conſolation to him, and often took from him the remembrance of his unhappineſs: but when he ſaw himſelf deprived of that comfort, that he could not make Adelfrida any but ſolemn viſits, and that the new rank which ſhe held at the court, obliged him to view her with more deference than he had yet done, his melancholy increaſed.

His being one of the handſomeſt Lords of the court, there was no advantage that he might not promiſe to himſelf: beſides,

he ſtood very high in the Queen's eſtimation. Every body was therefore ſurpriſed to ſee him ſo penſive; and none could gueſs the cauſe of his melancholy, ſo very unuſual to perſons of his age. His friends rallied him on the occaſion. The Princeſs, who ſtill preſerved a great friendſhip for him, from what had formerly paſt between them, was the firſt that gallantly reproached him for a melancholy which robbed the court of one of its principal ornaments: but he anſwered not her raileries, otherwiſe than by ſighs and obſcure words. That man muſt want the uſe of his tongue, who loves and forbears for ever to tell it. The Duke, at length, reſolved to break ſo rigorous a ſilence; perſuading himſelf

himſelf that it was impoſſible for him to be more wretched, and that at leaſt he ſhould have the comfort of changing his pain.

His having always had a free acceſs to the Princeſs's chamber, it was not ſo difficult for him to find her alone; and after wiping away many tears—he preſumed to tell her, that he loved—

There is a certain kind of coldneſs, that is a thouſand times worſe than fury. The Princeſs heard him, without being the leaſt moved, and replied,—"I know not, my Lord Duke, what that paſſion is, of which you tell me; but, if what you have ſaid is true, I eſteem you very unfortunate in having a love for a perſon who is ſo little in a condition to return it, as I am:

I will not, therefore, be angry with you; as I think you deſerve my pity, rather than my reproaches.—I only adviſe you to cure yourſelf of your folly; as well for your own intereſt, as mine. Spare me the pain of telling you, that reaſon obliges me to talk to you in this manner; and remember, that a Princeſs, whoſe birth is endeavoured to be ſuſpected, hath a particular obligation not to ſuffer a courtſhip, that may be unworthy of her."

The Duke, who had broke the ice, and had prepared himſelf for much harder uſage, grew bolder by the Princeſs's anſwer; and not penetrating to the meaning of her words, he again continued;

" Madam,

"Madam, I have endeavoured to be guided by the advice you gave me, when you wiſhed me to oppoſe that paſſion, which I juſt now declared to you: but in all the combats I have had with it, I ever found my reaſon the weaker. If I had curbed it in the beginning, perhaps I ſhould have conquered; but having entertained it in my heart, by reaſon of the myſtery which concealed your birth from me, it is now ſo well eſtabliſhed there, that it is abſolutely impoſſible for me to divert myſelf from it.—I do not, madam, deſire you to approve of my love, much leſs to give me any hopes: no,—the remainder of my reaſon will not permit the leaſt glimmerings of hope to enter into my thoughts. Give me

leave

leave only to appear melancholy in your preſence; and ſince I cannot hope, let me at leaſt flatter myſelf, that you ſometimes divine the cauſe of my ſadneſs."

How reſpectfully ſoever theſe words were ſpoken, yet the Duke pronounced them with ſuch a feeling emphaſis, that ſhewed he had interpreted Adelfrida's coldneſs to his own advantage. The Princeſs perceived it, by the joy that ſparkled in his eyes, in the midſt of all his ſadneſs;—and not being willing to keep him in his error, ſhe anſwered him more haughtily than at firſt. "I confeſs," ſaid ſhe, "that the friendſhip I have always had for you, has made me regard with concern the change of your humour; but ſince it proceeds from a cauſe ſo diſadvantage-

ous

ous to myſelf, I will take care not to heed it in future: and if, in ſpite of myſelf, I chance to take any notice of it, it ſhall be only to conceive hatred and diſdain, for what formerly gave me pity and compaſſion." Then, perceiving the Duke deſired to anſwer her, ſhe re-entered into her cloſet; and left him a prey to the moſt ſenſible affliction he had ever experienced.

He remained above half an hour in the Princeſs's chamber, in the ſame attitude that ſhe had left him; either becauſe he hoped ſhe would return, or, as was moſt probable, he wanted ſtrength to depart. At length, the fear of being ſurprized in the diſorder in which he was, made him withdraw.

He

He no ſooner arrived at his own houſe, than he ordered his carriage, and retired to his country ſeat; where he continued above two months, leading the moſt melancholy life imaginable. And without doubt, he would not have returned ſo ſoon, if the Queen had not abſolutely commanded him.

He appeared, at his return, ſo much altered, and ſo pale, that every body concluded he had been ill; and it was the only pleaſure they could do him, as he was by that means convinced that they were unacquainted with the real ſtate of his mind. He well knew, that Adelfrida alſo would perceive the change in his countenance; and it was ſome conſolation that his dejected looks would

would, at leaſt, plead to her his paſſion, though he, himſelf, dared not to entertain her with it.—When he proceeded, however, to make reflections upon the laſt words ſhe had ſaid to him; and when he conſidered that all the marks of his love, how ſecret ſoever they might be, would be eſteemed, by her, as ſo many offences, he was afraid to abandon himſelf over to ſorrow; and it was new matter of affliction to him, that he could not appear ſad, without incurring additional mortification. His Grace need not have been in want of comforters, had he been willing to receive any; ſince all the ladies of the court thought that his melancholy did not hinder him from being amiable; and it was

even

even believed, that it was not Elizabeth's fault if he did not forget all Adelfrida's ſeverities.

It is at leaſt probable, that Elizabeth, who always had a penetrating ſpirit, perceived the paſſion the Duke had for Adelfrida. She wanted not that weakneſs that is attributed to her, to be afflicted at this diſcovery. His credit was equally great, both at court and in the parliament. Elizabeth had looked upon him as a man the moſt capable of ſerving her deſigns; but finding him bound by ſo preſſing a reaſon to Adelfrida's intereſt, ſhe ſaw plainly, that it would be impoſſible for her to divide them; and that nothing would be able to annul any engagement between them.

THE windows of her appartment opened into one of the palace gardens; from whence ſhe cauſed the Duke to be carefully obſerved by one of her maids. Accordingly the ſervant one day informed her, that ſhe had juſt ſeen him enter into one of the arbours in the garden, with the Marquis de Tarnay, a French gentleman, but in the ſervice of the Queen of England; and the only man in the whole court, to whom his grace communicated his affairs. Elizabeth loſt no time, but took the maid with her; as well to bear her company, as to ſhew her into what arbour ſhe had ſeen them enter. It being very gloomy, and thickly covered, ſhe found means to approach it without being perceived. After ſeating

ſeating herſelf upon a graſſy bank, that lay contiguous to the arbour, and placing her ears to a little avenue, which a few broken ſprays had cauſed, ſhe heard his Grace entertain the Marquis with his love topics; and diſcourſe to him with the moſt entire confidence. "Ah! would to God," ſaid the Duke, "that ſhe was ſome cottager's daughter, I ſhould not love her leſs than I do on that account; nor ſhould the difference of our conditions hinder me from marryin of her. But, alas! to my miſfortune, ſhe is a Princeſs who rejects my paſſion; who believes that I rather love her greatneſs than her perſon; and who, poſſibly, regards my love, as a diſguiſed ambition!"—

"I confeſs,

"I confeſs," ſaid the Marquis, "that you have ſome reaſon to be afflicted; but give me leave alſo to tell you, that your grief is too exquiſite. The firſt mark of indifference, which you received from the lovely Princeſs, ought by no means to diſencourage you: 'twas the prelude of your better fortune. 'Tis ſo all women act; and ſince the principal laws of their ſex, is to uſe thoſe ill whom they eſteem the moſt, I would not, for your ſake, have had her leſs ſevere to you."

"Ha! my dear Marquis," replied the Duke, "I perceive thou wouldſt fain bring me ſome comfort; but, alas! thou canſt not do it. There is nothing ſo eaſy to be diſtinguiſhed in a woman, as a counterfeit ſeverity. The Prin-

ceſs ſpoke to me, in a way that could leave me no hopes; and I ſaw nothing in her eyes which did not agree with her words."

His Grace's ſorrow forced him to ſay many other things, which Elizabeth over-heard; and, thinking that ſhe knew enough, ſhe retired with a deſign of making what advantage ſhe could of the diſcovery. She was not only confirmed in her ſuſpicions, but diſcovered alſo, that the Princeſs had uſed the Duke ill; and not doubting but the difference of their qualities was the cauſe of her rigours, ſhe believed that the lover would be over-joyed at the taking away of an obſtacle ſo contrary to his happineſs; and, that he would care but little, whether he married a Princeſs,

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not, provided he might marry Adelfrida: that thus ſhe would eaſy engage him to join with her to weaken the proof of the Princeſs's birth; and to deprive her of a title that ruined both his, as well as her own pretenſions. She ſought for an opportunity of ſpeaking to him in private; and as ſoon as ſhe found one, ſhe did not fail to rally him according to her cuſtom. But ſhe added, that ſhe no longer wondered to ſee him ſo *penſaroſo*, ſince he was become ſo very ſentimental. The Duke had appeared ſo little gallant, and thought his paſſion to be ſo ſecret, that this railery of Elizabeth's extremely perplexed him; and, if ſhe had wanted more certain proofs of his love, the

diſcompoſure which was manifeſt in his countenance, were ſufficient to promote additional convictions. Nevertheleſs, he denied it as well as he could; and endeavoured to put on a lively air, which he thought proper in order to deſtroy her ſuſpicions.

"I thank you, heartily, madam," ſaid he, "that you attribute my melancholy to ſo agreeable an object; but I know none beſides yourſelf, in the whole court, who think me capable of a gallantry."

"Good God," replied Elizabeth, "do not deny it; I know more of it than you are aware; and, to let you ſee that I am not deceived, it is Adelfrida that you love."

The Duke was ſo ſurpriſed at theſe words, that he was unable

able to return her any anſwer. "Well, then," ſaid Elizabeth to him, perceiving that he ſtill kept ſilence, "confeſs that I am well informed of what paſſes in your heart, and freely own a thing which you can no longer conceal from me: fear not to make me your confidant. I am willing to ſerve you. I know that you are not happy; but it ſhall not be my fault, if you continue ſo. The Duke plainly perceived that his ſecret was diſcovered; and not knowing whether it was his love, or the Marquis de Tarnay, that had betrayed him, he preſently judged that all his diſcretion would be uſeleſs to him. It cauſed him a deal of uneaſineſs; but Elizabeth's proffers comforted

comforted him a little. Being willing thoroughly to obtain her favour, by a confidence which would coſt him nothing, he diſcovered to her the whole condition of his heart, and implored the aſſiſtance ſhe had juſt promiſed him.

" There is nothing which I will not do for you," ſaid Elizabeth, " but, if you will give me leave to ſpeak my ſentiments freely, I muſt inform you, that I fear your ſucceſs is at leaſt doubtful, as long as Adelfrida continues to be reckoned the Queen's ſiſter. The title of Princeſs is an invincible obſtacle to your happineſs; and 'tis that which afflicts me;" added ſhe, with her uſual diſſimulation; " that I cannot ſerve you, without doing her

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a prejudice. I know not whether I could reſolve upon it, whatever I have promiſed you, if I did not think to procure Adelfrida's advantage, as well as your own. There is no one beſides yourſelf ſo worthy of being her huſband; and the title of Dutcheſs of Norfolk ſeems to me much more conſiderable for her, than the chimerical name which ſhe aſſumes. Endeavour, then, to deprive her of one, that you may give her the other. I will ſupport all that you ſhall do; and I warrant you the ſucceſs of your undertaking."

THIS propoſal put a lover's generoſity to the teſt; and many men would, perhaps, have been leſs ſcrupulous than the Duke of Norfolk. But being one of the

moſt generous men of the age, and loving the Princeſs, with as much diſintereſtedneſs as ardour, he was not long in reſolving upon this occaſion.

"Madam," ſaid he, "I muſt take the liberty to ſay, that nothing but madneſs could urge me to covet the fulfilment of your promiſe, under ſuch conditions as you have mentioned; and I confeſs my reluctancy would, at leaſt, be equal to your own. My heart revolts at ſuch an idea; and I had much rather be miſerable myſelf, than purchaſe my happineſs by a crime of ſo great a magnitude. No, I cannot deprive her of her birth-right. I am not, however, ſo much amazed, that Adelfrida's birth ſhould be ſomewhat ſuſpect-

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ed by you, ſince you know ſo little of it. But, as for me, I am convinced by ſuch indubitable teſtimony, as excludes, for ever, the poſſibility of a doubt. If your uncertainty juſtifies the propoſal you make, I muſt decline accepting it, with the knowlcdge I have; otherwiſe I ſhould be the moſt criminal of men."

THIS anſwer was a ſudden ſurpriſe to Elizabeth. She was a ſtranger to ſuch noble ſentiments; nor was her heart capable of cultivating them. Vexed beyond deſcription, that ſhe had advanced ſo far, ſhe conceived ſo ſettled a hatred for the Duke, that no time could ever eradicate.

MARY, the reigning Queen, died ſuddenly; and numerous were the

the reports levelled againſt Elizabeth. However, ſo ſudden a death prevented the Queen from declaring her laſt will and pleaſure; tho' the friendſhip which ſhe had ſhewed, during her life, to the Princeſs Adelfrida, might ſeem to render that formality unneceſſary. Elizabeth made ſo good uſe of the will which King Henry her father had made in her behalf; that with the aſſiſtance of her friends, ſhe cauſed herſelf to be declared Queen of England, notwithſtanding the pretences of Adelfrida. This young Princeſs, hung over the corpſe of her deceaſed ſiſter, melted in tears, while the crown was diſpoſed of, to which ſhe pretended the right of inheritance.

ELIZABETH'S

ELIZABETH's party was ſo ſtrong, and managed their deſign with ſo much dexterity and diſpatch, that the moſt zealous of Adelfrida's friends dared not diſcover themſelves. There was none but the Duke of Norfolk had reſolution enough; who, with a generoſity, beyond example, declared himſelf openly for her. And though he might rationally have judged, that it would coſt him his life; he even ſought her in her chamber, and found her all overwhelmed in tears.

"Keep your tears, madam, for ſome other time;" ſaid he, "and do not add to the loſs of a ſiſter, that of a crown. The firſt is without remedy; and the other irrecoverable, unleſs you take ſome ſpeedy courſe about it"

"Oh,

"Oh, heaven!" replied the Princeſs, "ſay nothing to me in the condition in which I am. I entruſt to your conduct all that concerns me."

"Do your endeavours to maſter your ſorrow," ſaid the Duke, "in order to ſhew yourſelf to the people. If the loſs of a throne be not ſufficient to move you to it, think, at leaſt, on the preſervation of your life; and remember, that it will be in no great ſafety, as ſoon as Elizabeth ſhall be miſtreſs of it."—He effected ſo much by his ſolicitations, that at length he obliged her to appear,—but it was too late.—Elizabeth was already in poſſeſſion of the whole power.—This unhappy Princeſs had no ſooner kept her apartments,

ments, but ſhe was encompaſſed with a troop of guards, and the Duke thrown into priſon. He was indicted as a rebel, and condemned to die; but the affair not being univerſally known, Elizabeth pardoned and releaſed him. A ſhort time after, however, he loſt his head for a leſs crime.

THE diſſimulation of Elizabeth was ſo great, that ſhe even went to viſit Adelfrida in her confinement; and aſked her pardon, with tears in her eyes, for the violence that was done her. At the ſame time, ſhe told the fair priſoner, that ſhe was not miſtreſs of a diſordered populace, who followed no other laws than that of their own caprice—that ſhe muſt yield to neceſſity for ſome

ſome few days—but, that as ſoon as ſhe could ſee her authority ſufficiently eſtabliſhed to act freely, the firſt uſe ſhe would make of it would be to call her ſiſter back to court.

Lady Anne Haſtings, the daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, was the boſom friend and confidant of Adelfrida, and ſpent the greateſt part of her time with her; which, in ſome degree, alloyed the rigours of her impriſonment. Lady Anne was one of thoſe females that delight and captivate every ſpectator: ſhe poſſeſſed the keeneſt ſenſibility, added to the moſt refined ſentiments imaginable; to complete which, ſhe was the moſt perfect beauty fancy could well form. She was exquiſitely feminine, by a com-

complexion tranſparently fair, nad a faint bloom, alike delicate and languiſhing; her hair of a pale amber, falling in a profuſion of ringlets down to the bottom of her waiſt; her eyes of a dark blue; her fine poliſhed arm, and beautiful hand, beyond deſcription heavenly *: Who, but an

* In the Hiſtory of England it gives this account of Lady Anne. "A Czar, of the name of John Baſilides, who, ſuſpecting continually of the revolt of his ſubjects, ſtipulated to have a ſafe retreat and protection in England. In order, the more to inſure himſelf of this reſourſe, he propoſed to marry an Engliſh woman, of great beauty. The Queen intended to have ſent him Lady Anne Haſtings; but that lady being informed of the barbarous manners of the conntry, wiſely declined purchaſing an empire at the expence of her eaſe and ſafety."

See HUME.

inſenſible

inſenſible being, but muſt be captivated with ſuch an object! She created univerſal admiration; thoſe that were unacquainted with each of their ranks, generally took the lovely friends for ſiſters.

Adelfrida would often bemoan the death of the Duke of Norfolk; but at the ſame time ſhe would ſay,—"It gives me ſome ſatisfaction, that the Duke of Norfolk died not through being too warm an advocate for me; but for another woman. Three years paſſed, without any ſigns of Adelfrida's releaſe from confinement.

The Duke of Alencon had made great advances to Elizabeth, as a ſuitor, and was received; he therefore paid a viſit

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to England incog. Having a very good paſſage, he arrived the evening before the Queen expected him;—and it being a grand maſquerade night, the Duke, fatigued as he was, reſolved to be preſent, that he might have an opportunity of ſeeing the Queen, without being known. Accordingly he ſent Du Lac his valet, for a dreſs, and repaired to the place of feſtivity.—By mere chance, the Duke's dreſs happened to be the counterpart of Lord Leiceſter; and as he entered the room, the Earl left it. The Duke inſtantly knew the Queen, as ſhe was not maſked; he went up to her, and they entered into a converſation. As he perceived that ſhe took him for the Earl, "When does your Majeſ-

ty expect the Duke of Alencon?" ſaid he.

"To morrow night," replied Elizabeth.

"And do you really intend to marry him?" added he.

"What a queſtion from Leiceſter! Do you think I am ſo inclined? No; if any one ſhares the crown of England with Elizabeth, it will be Leiceſter alone, that will be the man."

"Your Majeſty's moſt obedient," ſaid the Duke, pulling off his hat; at the ſame time bowing. At that inſtant Lord Leiceſter came up; and the Duke left the room.

"Good God!" ſaid Elizabeth, when ſhe recovered a little from her ſurpriſe, "What have I done?

done?" The Earl interrogated her what it was?

"Why, I have told the Duke of Alencon my ſentiments." She then related what had paſt. The Queen called the Marquis of Launceſton, and ordered him to follow the Duke home, and try to penetrate into his ſentiments on what had occured. The Marquis, according to his orders, waited on the Duke; and after the uſual compliments were over, he began to open his commiſſion.

The Duke, having perceived that the Marquis behaved to him as though he had been already on the throne, his deſpite preſently furniſhed him with an anſwer. "I know not," ſaid he, with a cold air, "whether it be by the Queen's

order that you talk to me as you do, or if it be an honour which I owe to yourſelf alone? but from whence ſoever it proceeds you will oblige me very much to decline the topic. I will not fall into the net you are ſpreading for me. The crown of England is not for me; it is too firmly ſettled on the head of Elizabeth: and when it ſhall pleaſe her to ſhare it with another, I am well perſuaded, that it will not be me, whom ſhe will caſt her eyes on."—Much more of the like converſation paſſed, when the Marquis departed, and the Duke went to-bed. The next morning, as ſoon as he was up, ſeveral of the nobility came to make their court to him, as to a Prince whom they already re-

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regarded as their King. He wiſhed, however, to be alone; and the preſent diſpoſition of his ſpirits did not at all ſuit with ſo numerous a company; but there was no way for him to get rid of them. What tormented him the more was, that his ſuppoſed marriage was the ſubject of all their compliments. They believed that they pleaſed him infinitely by wiſhing him joy of his elevation. Nevertheleſs, he came very ſucceſsfully off; and he diſcovered in all his conduct, as much civility as prudence. They told him, the Queen expected him; and that it was time for him to make the firſt viſit. He was not long in dreſſing; and the richneſs of his habit gave a new luſtre to the beauty of his

mein. He appeared in the eyes of all the Engliſh court the moſt worthy, and the moſt capable perſon of being their Prince."

The Duke was then in the flower of his age; handſome, well-formed, and gallant. Theſe qualities were ſupported by that elegant behaviour, and thoſe charming manners, which ſo eminently diſtinguiſh the Prince of France from all others: nor could fortune caſt her eyes upon a ſubject, who ſeemingly better deſerved the preſent ſhe was diſpoſed to favour him with.

A great number of his friends came to viſit him, and to accompany him to the palace; and through an incredible croud of people, who were aſſembled together to ſee him, they arrived

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in the preſence of the Queen. She received him on the ſtair-head, followed by all the ladies of the court. The beginning of this interview paſſed in ceremony and in compliments; but there was ſo much coldneſs obſerved in the Duke of Alencon, and ſomething ſo ſtrained and unnatural in Elizabeth, that thoſe who were the leaſt penetrating did not fail to make ill-boding conjectures. They were, however, much more ſurpriſed, when his Highneſs proſecuted the part he had previouſly begun to act with the Marquis of Launceſton; and believing his honour concerned to let the Queen underſtand that he was acquainted with her artifices, he told her, that he was extremely ſurpriſed at the extraor-

dinary reception he met with; and that he expected not ſo much honour where he would have been glad to have paſſed incognito.

Theſe words were a mortal blow to the Queen's policy; ſhe grew pale; ſhe bluſhed; and her confuſion appeared in the eyes of the whole court. The Marquis of Launceſton had not had an opportunity to give her any account of his converſation with the Duke of Alencon; ſo that ſhe was, till then, ignorant of his ſentiments. But hearing him ſpeak in the manner he did, ſhe doubted not but that he had diſtinguiſhed every word ſhe had ſaid to him the evening before; and that from thence proceeded thoſe unpleaſing conſequences, which

ſhe

ſhe had all along apprehended. Nevertheleſs, ſhe recovered her ſelf as well as ſhe could; and looking upon the Duke with a forced ſmile, ſhe ſaid,

"Sir, you will be pleaſed to pardon me, if I anſwer not your railery, which I do not perfectly underſtand. I hope you will do me the favour to explain theſe enigmas ſome other day. In the mean time, give me leave to complain a little of the ſurpriſe you gave me laſt night."

"I know not, madam," ſaid the Duke, "whether you have any reaſon to complain; but I confeſs to you, that I am not ſorry it ſo happened.'

The Duke would have continued the diſcourſe; but the Queen, fearing leſt he ſhould ſay too much,

much, interrupted him immediately; and in order to conclude a converſation which ſeemed to her too delicate to be public, ſhe very ingeniouſly waved it, by pretending impatience for news from the French court. She aſked him ſeveral queſtions; to which the Prince anſwered, with that pleaſantneſs which was natural to him. And though he did not endeavour to pleaſe, yet he entertained her with ſo much wit, that all-exaſperated as ſhe was, at the freedom with which he had ſpoken to her when he was firſt introduced, ſhe could not but eſteem him a moſt amiable character. The greateſt part of the day was given over to pleaſure. The Queen, though in general of a parſimonious turn, had

had cauſed a ſumptuous treat to be prepared to entertain her princely gueſt, accompanied with an excellent conſort of muſic.

They ſat ſo long at table, that it began to be pretty late before they aroſe. It happened to be one of the faireſt days of ſpring; and the pleaſantneſs of the ſeaſon inviting to walk, the Queen led the Duke of Alencon into the palace gardens, on pretence of ſhewing him its beauties. The genuine reaſon was, that ſhe might the more eaſily find an opportunity of being at liberty to ſpeak to him freely, and to do away the impreſſions which the laſt night's adventure had made on his mind. The Duke, who had no leſs deſire

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to open himſelf to her Majeſty, gave her his hand with pleaſure. As ſoon as they ſaw themſelves far enough off from the company that followed them, ſo as not to be overheard, their mutual deſign not permitting them to entertain each other with indifferent matters, they began their converſation; and the Queen with an embarraſſed air, and diffidence of manner thus addreſſed his Highneſs:

"Perhaps, Sir, I had better wait a little for the knowledge of *your* ſentiments, before I diſcover to you *my own*; and without doubt it will appear very extraordinary to you, that in the firſt converſation we have together, I ſhould diſcourſe to you with the ſame freedom as if we had

had been acquainted with each other all our lives. The obligations, however, which I am under to France, and to you in particular, ſufficiently juſtifies my conduct; therefore, I fear, that the miſtake which I made laſt night, has led you into an error very vexatious to myſelf, and has given you occaſion to draw many unpleaſing concluſions reſpecting my conduct. I foreſaw this before you came hither; and from your expreſſions, I am confirmed in my opinion. I do not condemn your ſuſpicions. However unjuſt they may be, they ſeem at leaſt reaſonable; and I confeſs, that all appearances are againſt me. But as ſoon as I ſhall have told you the reaſon

reaſons of thoſe engagements which have been already diſcovered, I hope that you will do me more juſtice than to harbour any thing unfavourable againſt me: and if I appear not altogether innocent, you will find me much leſs criminal than you thought me." As ſhe ended theſe words, they were at the entrance of an arbour of jeſſamine wherein were ſeats of moſs, upon which they ſeated themſelves. Thoſe who followed them, judging that they deſired no interruption, left the Queen the liberty to proſecute her diſcourſe; which ſhe did in the following manner:

" It is ſo difficult for a woman to ſway a ſceptre alone, that I have always regarded marriage as a thing

thing abſolutely neceſſary for the eſtabliſhment of my authority. I have made no ſecret of my deſign; and a crown always communicates part of its charms. The ſplendor of mine has concealed my imperfections from thoſe who have been dazzled with it. Robert Dudley, Earl of Leiceſter, did me a ſingular ſervice when I was in impriſonment; which I have always remembered with gratitude: beſides which, he appears to be the moſt conſiderable perſon in my court. His birth, which is from one of the moſt ancient and noble families of the realm; his great riches, and above all, the influence he has in parliament, where he is eſpouſed, flattered his hopes to a great degree. I believed myſelf, therefore, obliged

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ed to hearken to him more favourably than to others; in order to prevent the miſcheivous conſequences, which a manifeſt reſiſtence would infallibly have drawn upon me. I will not dwell upon the particulars of ſeveral circumſtances, which might be of uſe to my juſtification; all that I ſay to you, at preſent, is, that I was obliged to coincide with ſome meaſures, that I might not be at variance with thoſe who were his ſupporters. My complaiſance deceived him, and his ambition blinded his ſenſes; he eaſily miſtook every thing which proceeded from that policy which I thought neceſſary to ſecure my crown. His credulity miſtook alſo the ſigns of a feigned for a real paſſion; and there

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wanted nothing more to make him hope for all that could gratify his ſilly pride. This bold young man, relying, therefore, upon the ſtrength and number of his party, as well as upon my own weakneſs, believed that he needed not to wait any longer in order to carry on his temerity to the utmoſt.—"Pardon me, madam," ſaid he, one day, "if I preſume to declare myſelf to you otherwiſe than by my ſubmiſſions and uſual reſpect; it will be more conſonant with my feelings; and, I hope, not diſagreeable to your own. My preſumption will need no other interpretation than that which you will be able to give it." Elizabeth continued: "I ſilenced him

him for that time: and being unwilling, for the reaſons that I have given you, to diſagree with him; I anſwered him neither too mild nor to rough. Feigning, therefore, to regard his tranſports as a gallantry of very little conſequence, I only laughed at it: in the mean time, I began to repent for having admitted ſuch advances, plainly perceiving that I ſhould often be expoſed to the like vexations. Nevertheleſs, there was no choice but to continue my diſguiſe, till I found a plauſible pretence and a favourable opportunity to diſcover myſelf. It was much about that time that the Queen, your mother, made me the firſt overtures of the deſign that has brought you unto this realm. I liſtened

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to the propoſals ſooner perhaps than I ſhould have done, becauſe they appeared to me the moſt probable means in the world to deliver me from my reſtleſs condition, and protect the dignity of my perſon. It is not likely that the Earl will enter into a competition with you, or that I can be blamed for having preferred a royal Prince before a ſimple favourite. There was danger in rendering deſperate a man who believed himſelf ſo near the throne, and who would have been ſo formidable an enemy. I thought it neceſſary, therefore, to entertain him in his error, until I had brought matters to ſuch a ſtate, as would prevent him from having it in his power to give me any future trouble. It was

to that end I ſo readily let him underſtand, that the reports which were circulated abroad, ought not to alarm him; and laſt night, by miſtaking your Highneſs for the Earl, I told you what I believed was proper to tell him."

THOUGH there was ſome truth in the Queen's words, and that ſhe did her utmoſt endeavour to put on the perſuaſive air of ſincerity, yet the Duke of Alencon gave not much credit to them; and perceiving that the Queen had given over ſpeaking,

"PARDON me, madam," ſaid he, "if I ſtill fear, after all you have told me. On my ſide is youth, on your ſide policy; who ſhall aſſure me that it is not me you mean to deceive, rather than the Earl;

Earl; or indeed that you do not treat us both with duplicity?"

"THE event," replied the Queen, a little diſturbed at the liberty of his diſcourſe, "is the warrant which I give you of my conduct; although my frank dealing with you ought not to permit you to ſeek for other aſſurances." She pronounced theſe words with ſo natural an air, that the Duke of Alencon effectually loſt a great part of his diſtruſt, and retired half convinced of her Majeſty's good intentions.

BOOK THE SECOND.

"When love's well-tim'd, 'tis not a fault to love—
"The ſtrong, the brave, the virtuous, and the wiſe,
"Sunk in the ſoft captivity together."

AS ſoon as Elizabeth was alone, and at leiſure to make her reflections on what had paſſed, ſhe began to tremble at the proſpect of the condition to which ſhe had reduced herſelf. She was almoſt engaged againſt her will; and the aſſurances ſhe had juſt given the Duke, appeared to her too firm to be retracted

from, without ſome mighty reaſon to juſtify ſo capricious a conduct. However, her averſion to marriage was ſo predominant, that ſhe reſolved to break off the match at any rate; but to hide her deſign more dexterouſly, and to make it at the ſame time ſucceed, ſhe believed that ſhe could not do better than to entertain the Duke of Alencon with hopes, without rejecting the Earl of Leiceſter. She imagined, that the jealouſy which by theſe means might grow up between the two rivals, would not fail to create ſome incident that might ſerve for a pretence to diſengage her from her word; nor was it a difficult taſk for her to conduct herſelf in a manner comformable to her reſolution. For as often as ſhe was

alone

alone with the Duke, ſhe repeated to him the ſame proteſtations which ſhe had made the Earl, when together in private; and if they happened to be both preſent at once, though her behaviour towards the Prince was with more honour and reſpect, yet towards the favourite, ſhe was more engaging and familiár; ſo that for ſome time they were both ſufficiently ſatisfied with her conduct.

At length the Duke became tired of delays, and openly complained to her of them. She defended herſelf as well as ſhe could; though it by no means ſatisfied him. Finding it, therefore, impoſſible to continue any longer her evaſions, ſhe reſolved at once to bring it to a concluſion;

ſion; for which purpoſe ſhe one morning feigned herſelf ill, juſt as the Duke came to ſee her; and in the afternoon ſhe ſent him a billet; the contents of which were as follows:

"THE Duke of Alencon preſ-
"ſes me: and I no longer know
"how to colour my delays. My
"ſickneſs is counterfeited on
"purpoſe, in expectation that
"he will invent ſome better pre-
"tence. On this head I need
"not intreat him; he has rea-
"ſons enough to oblige him to
"it."

THE above was written in ſuch a ſtile as though ſhe had intended it for the Earl. At the ſame time ſhe ſent Lord Leiceſter

Leiceſter another, to this purpoſe:

"Pardon me, Sir, if I could "not have the honour of ſeeing "you in the morning: it was the "greateſt trouble that my preſent indiſpoſition occaſioned. "But I am afraid that it will not "be the only one; and that it "may yet add for ſome weeks "to the impatience I have of "ſeeing you

"King of England,
"and huſband to
"ELIZABETH."

His Lordſhip had not been that morning to ſee the Queen. She never wrote to him in ſuch a ſtile before, nor ever ſpoke to him ſo openly; ſo that he had no doubt but

but that the billet ſhould have been addreſſed to the Duke. He then began to fear, leſt the Queen ſhould at length conclude her marriage with the Prince; for he thought it impoſſible that a woman could write in ſuch a ſignificant ſtile to any man, but to him whom ſhe already regarded as her huſband. His vexation was very conſiderable; and he retired to the palace gardens, in order to diſſipate his chagrin in a walk.

The Duke of Alencon was deceived, as well as the Earl; but believed, as it was very probable, that the billet was deſigned for his rival. His Highneſs then revolving in his mind her Majeſty's delays, the falſe confidences ſhe had made him, and

and the familiarity ſhe ſtill kept up with the Earl, he no longer doubted of her duplicity; and he exclaimed againſt her as the falſeſt of women. He likewiſe fled to the palace gardens for a ſolitary walk; but was very much ſurpriſed on entering a green arbour to repoſe himſelf, to find the Earl there. A rival's preſence, whom he believed happy, rouzed his anger; and drawing his ſword, "Let us ſee," ſaid he, whether you are as formidable in this arbour, as you are in in the Queen's cloſet," But ſtop," continued he, "before we fight, behold your happineſs:" at the ſame time giving him the billet.

"Behold your's," ſaid the Earl, giving him his own in exchange:

Each

Each read; and ſeeing themſelves equally deceived, they were at a loſs how to reconcile an adventure, that appeared ſo prejudicial to the character of Majeſty. But this manouvre of the Queen's was of too ſerious a nature to permit them to appear pleaſant under it. Both were offended, and each uttered imprecations againſt her. "She is a deceitful woman," ſaid the Earl; "ſhe eſteems every one juſt who flatters her haughty and imperious humour; and ſhe is capable of ſacrificing all things to the leaſt perſuaſion of policy that preſents itſelf to her diſtruſtful and ſuſpicious ſpirit. He then began to tell the Duke how falſe ihe had been to the Queen of Scots; and informed him

him of the cruelty with which ſhe detained the Princeſs Adelfrida in priſon.

The Duke of Alencon was too generous not to intereſt himſelf in the diſgraces of a Princeſs, who was eſteemed the moſt lovely woman of the age. He had ever a ſecret inclination for her, which was as it were a prelude to what would happen; ſo that when the Earl ſpoke to him concerning her, he found him as ready to deplore Adelfrida's misfortunes, as to aggravate the Queen's cruelty. In fine, they were like two rivals who ſometimes unite themſelves together, to be revenged on an ungrateful and perfidious miſtreſs; and their mutual hatred ſubſiding with the jealouſy which had occaſioned it, the Duke inſtantly demanded, whether

whether it were true, that ſhe was as fine a perſon as ſhe was reported to be. The Earl, who had ſeen her ſome time before her impriſonment, aſſured his Highneſs, that he had never before beheld ſo admirable a woman; and, in order the more effectually to convince him of its reality, he ſhewed him her picture, which, by mere chance, he happened to have at that time about him.

The portrait was highly deſcriptive; and the Duke, for awhile, forgot his chagrin, in gazing on it. He owned to the Earl, that Adelfrida was the moſt beautiful creature under heaven if the picture did not flatter her; and from thence they took occaſion to enlarge upon the diſcourſe

courſe. The Duke being pleaſed with a ſubject that nurtured his hatred for the Queen, entreated the Earl to relate him the unfortunate Princeſs's hiſtory. The Earl, who was no leſs exaſperated than himſelf, and who felt alike pleaſure in this converſation, ſatisfied his curioſity, and related the hiſtory of Adelfrida.

His Lordſhip had but juſt finiſhed this relation when, on a ſudden, they perceived Elizabeth in the walk that led to the arbour wherein they were ſeated. She was in an undreſs; two of her woman ſupported her by the arms; and ſhe affected in her air, the languiſhing uſual to perſons indiſpoſed. In the mean time, ſhe advanced towards them;

and they, not being able to ſteal away without being perceived, concluded that it would be more proper to go and meet her; which they accordingly did. If the ſight of the Queen ſurprized them, ſhe was not leſs aſtoniſhed to find them together; and obſerving in their faces no ſigns of a late quarrel, ſhe was greatly diſappointed to find that her artifice had ſucceeded no better; the preſence of two men alſo, whom ſhe had ſo highly provoked, expoſed her to that confuſion which is ever attendant on the diſcovery of deceit.

THE interview between theſe three perſons was ſomewhat comic: and it would be difficult to repreſent the perplexity of their minds. The Queen, accuſtomed to cunning, could not forbear bluſhing;

ing; ſhe dared not hardly to lift up her eyes. She had ſtudied more how to reproach the Duke, for the expected tranſports of his paſſion, than how to anſwer the neceſſary compliments which he would make to her; and though the preſence of the Earl did not cauſe her ſo much uneaſineſs, yet his being another witneſs of her perfidy, was an additional ſource of confuſion to her. The rivals had too much reaſon to complain of the Queen's conduct, to be entirely ſilent to her about it; but at that time they had powerful motives for diſſembling; and they thought it better to conceal a little of their reſentment, than to give too viſible marks of it. So that after the firſt compliments were made

with a great deal of coldneſs, their converſation on a ſudden ceaſed. They walked on till they arrived at the arbour, without ſpeaking; and it being very ſhady and dark, the Queen was glad of ſuch a retreat, that ſhe might the more eaſily conceal her feelings.

HER Majeſty was no ſooner ſeated, than ſhe perceived ſomething ſparkle in the corner of the ſhady refuge; and having cauſed her woman to take it up, ſhe found it to be the picture of a female. It was the ſame which the Earl had juſt before ſhewn to the Duke of Alencon, and had unluckily let it fall in the ſurpriſe which the Queen's preſence had occaſioned. She took the portrait to

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the light, and looked at it, when, to her mortification, ſhe diſcovered the features of the lady whom ſhe hated more than any other. This circumſtance alone was enough to excite her ill-humour; but in the predicament in which ſhe ſtood, it was ſuch an additional ſtroke to her offended pride, that it was more than equal to her diſſimulation. Her eyes ſparkled with an unknown cruelty, which made Lord Leiceſter tremble. He knew how dangerous it was to be ſuſpected by her for a ſecret well-wiſher of the Princeſs Adelfrida. The Duke immediately perceived the ill-conſequence which this adventure was likely to produce, in reference to the Earl; and though he had before conſidered

him as a happy rival, yet he had now too much generoſity to ruin him. The conference which they had together, having impreſſed the Duke with a great eſteem for him, he was glad to meet with an opportunity to convince him of it on the preſent occaſion. He therefore demanded the picture from the Queen, telling her at the ſame time, that it was his; and that he had brought it from France, where the great beauty of the Princeſs paſſed for a proverb. He added thoſe laſt words, with a deſign to vex the Queen; and they had the effect he expected. For her Majeſty not being able to conceal her jealouſy, could not forbear telling the Duke, when ſhe reſtored it to him, that the artiſt who executed

ecuted it, was certainly a friend to the Princeſs. "It may be," ſaid the Duke, "that her impriſonment hath altered her; but I have always heard it ſaid, that the delicacy of her perſon, and the gentleneſs of her manners, ſtand unrivalled: nay, that her beauty could not be exceeded even by Venus herſelf." The Queen, not finding herſelf diſpoſed to maintain a diſcourſe ſo oppoſite to her inclinations, broke it off, and retired upon pretence of the indiſpoſition which ſhe had begun to counterfeit.

"As ſoon as ſhe ſaw herſelf alone, and capable of makin reflections on what had paſſed, her humour, naturally jealous, found therein inexhauſtible matter of ſuſpicion and miſtruſt. The

tricks which ſhe had all along practiſed, turning to no purpoſe, impreſſed her with the idea that her reputation would be ruined in the Duke of Alencon's opinion; and his having in his poſſeſſion the picture of a Princeſs whom ſhe knew pretended to the crown, was ſuch another ſource of agitation to her ſpirits, that ſhe really fell ſick.

She immediately ſent for Lord Leiceſter, that ſhe might draw from him an explanation of the adventure, which ſtill appeared ſo myſterious to her. The Earl was not pleaſed at this ſummons from the Queen; he doubted not but that the picture had alarmed her, and it was greatly to be feared, that ſhe might ſeek out fatal precautions for her repoſe. Nevertheleſs

vertheleſs he delayed not going to court; and when he entered her auguſt preſence, ſhe thus addreſſed him:

"Begone! you are unworthy of my goodneſs; and were I as ſevere as you are ungrateful, you ſhould not hold a correſpondence with my enemies."

The Earl was ſeized with a ſtupefaction, on hearing her ſpeak in this manner. Every thing was to be feared from an enraged woman, and particularly from one, whoſe anger he well knew was difficult to be appeaſed. Fearing, therefore, to reply to her complaints, leſt ſome words might unawares eſcape him whichwould more highly exaſperate her, he for ſome time kept ſilence, being at a loſs what anſwer he ſhould make.

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The Queen, however, awakened him from his reverie, by adding;

"I plainly perceive, that the reproaches of your conſcience effectually bar your mouth; but ſpeak boldly, and with my uſual clemency I pardon you, provided I may truſt on your ſincerity.

The Earl, who was afraid to leave her to her ſuſpicions, conſidered, that as his ſafety was concerned, he could not do better than to tell her the truth of what had paſſed; making, however, what neceſſary reſerves he thought proper, particularly taking no notice of the picture which had offended Elizabeth more than all the reſt. With a degree of quickneſs, therefore, ſhe interrupted him, by aſking, what chance had laid

ſaid the picture in the corner of the arbour? and if it was true that it was the Duke's? Further, whether the Prince had ſaid any thing to him concerning the impriſonment of Adelfrida? She aſked him a hundred other queſtions; which the Earl, having no mind to gratify her curioſity, evaded as well as he could. His Lordſhip was now too friendly with his Highneſs, and too nearly concerned himſelf as to his own particular intereſt, to declare any thing that might prove hurtful either to the one or to he other. He aſſured her, that he knew not by what means the picture was laid in the place where ſhe found it, otherwiſe than he ſuppoſed that the Duke muſt have dropt it by accident: and added

added, that the Princeſs Adelfrida had no ſhare in their converſation; and that there was no probability, that the Duke of Alencon would have choſen him for his confidant. All theſe proteſtations did but redouble Elizabeth's ſuſpicion; who, not being able to extort any other confeſſion from him, ſent him back in a diſagreeable uncertainty of what he was to expect from her anger.

She immediately placed ſpies about the Duke; ordered the Princeſs's guards to be doubled; and forgot nothing to ſecure her own ſafety. This was the effect of a mind ſo reſtleſs, and ſo ſuſpicious, as her own; for ſhe conjectured it to be a matter wherein

wherein her neareſt intereſt was involved.

During theſe tranſactions the Duke, who had kept the Princeſs's picture, could not forbear gazing at it with ſympathy; and his hatred for Elizabeth ſerved only to increaſe his compaſſion for Adelfrida.

"Heaven!" ſaid he, "muſt ſuch a lovely Princeſs be abandoned to confinement, merely to ſatisfy the wanton caprice of a woman, who has dared to wreſt from her the ſceptre, to which ſhe is entitled by birth!"

While he was ruminating all theſe thoughts, perceiving that there was no probability of confiding any farther in Elizabeth's promiſes; and that in the preſent ſtate of affairs, he could no longer hope

hope for the accompliſhment of a marriage, to which he himſelf had hardly conſented, he framed from that hour the deſign of ſetting the Princeſs at liberty; perſuading himſelf, that ſuch a conduct would appear glorious in the eyes of all Europe, and that inſtead of the mortification which it was natural to expect from his unprofitable voyage, his nobly declining the intended marriage with ſo artful a woman, would be conſidered more advantageous to him than the crown of England.

His Highneſs communicated his deſign to Du Lac, who, aſtoniſhed at the idea, endeavoured to diſſuade him from his purpoſe; at the ſame time telling him, that his intentions had ſo often failed, as that it would render him a little ridiculous;

ridiculous; that Elizabeth was too inexorable ever to releaſe Adelfrida from a confinement ſo neceſſary to her own repoſe. The Duke gave him to underſtand, that he ſtood in no need of the Queen's conſent; and that there were other methods to bring about ſo deſirable a thing. Theſe words, added to Du Lac's apprehenſions; he knew from the example of the Queen of Scotland, that there were no arts which Elizabeth would not make uſe of for the ſupport of her crown and authority. He repreſented to the Duke the dangers to which ſuch a deſign would expoſe him; the ſtrictneſs with which the Princeſs was guarded; the difficulties he muſt overcome to ſee her; and every thing he judged proper

proper to deter him from ſo difficult an enterpriſe. But all that that he could ſay was not ſufficient to make him change his deſign; the reſolution was taken, and he no longer thought on any thing but the means by which he could accompliſh it.

About this time, a French lady, of the name of the Marchioneſs de Navarre, viſited England. She had been eight months a widow, and had an only child of a year old. Madame de Navarre no ſooner attended the Engliſh court, than Elizabeth felt a paſſion, that it would be almoſt impoſſible to believe ſo cold, ſo callous a breaſt, could feel—It was friendſhip.—She no ſooner ſaw the lovely widow than ſhe became delighted with her. To her ſhe

confided

confided all her greateſt ſecrets, and to her ſhe related her preſent embarraſſment. Madame de Navarre was well acquainted with the character of the Queen; ſhe therefore returned her advances with as much coldneſs as the principles of politeneſs would admit. She was diſguſted with her Majeſty's diſſimulation; and would have left England, if particular reaſons had not obliged her to ſtay. This behaviour was ſo pointed, that no one who was preſent could help obſerving it: but the Queen continued to treat her with that partiality which always diſtinguiſhed her favourites.

ELIZABETH had been indiſpoſed almoſt ever ſince the occurrence in the arbour; and her phyſicians adviſed her to retire

for a few days to the country, in order for her recovery. She followed their advice, and Madame de Navarre was prevailed upon to accompany her, though highly againſt her inclination, to a ſeat not far from the caſtle which ſerved for a priſon for Adelfrida. The air of that retreat was very ſalutary; and Elizabeth was more particularly attached to it, becauſe it favoured her with an opportunity of keeping a ſtrict watch over her priſoner, and of preventing the more readily all attempts which the Duke might make for her liberty.

ADELFRIDA knew nothing of the Queen's deſign; on the contrary, ſhe hoped, that her Majeſty's coming into the neighbourhood, would be ſome advantage

to her; that if ſhe could procure her conſent for an interview, it might be the means of her deliverance. With this view, ſhe wrote to her tyrant ſiſter in ſuch moving terms, that were enough to have conquered the moſt inveterate enmity in any other ſoul but Elizabeth's. Lady Anne Haſtings preſented it to the Queen, who pretended to have nothing ſo much at heart, as that which the Princeſs Adelfrida deſired of her: ſhe therefore appointed a day and a place of interview. Lady Anne returned, quite delighted with the ſucceſs of her embaſſy; and at the appointed time they met. Her Majeſty ſaluted the Princeſs, as if ſhe had loved her with the moſt tender affection.

"You will not poſſibly believe me," ſaid the Queen, "if I tell you, that I am not much leſs ſenſible of your misfortunes than yourſelf; and that I ſhould long ago have finiſhed the courſe of them, had I been in a capacity to do it. But you know very well, that a Queen is not always ſo abſolute as ſhe would be, over the inclinations of her ſubjects; and that often ſhe has but little left beſides the ſplendour of a crown; of which they uſurp all the prerogatives. I frequently founded them with reſpect, to your liberty; but I fear that my deſire to relieve you, is not ſo near its completion as I could wiſh; yet I hope the ſeaſon will come, that through a little patience, you will ſee yourſelf in a ſituation that will enable you to forget

all

all former troubles." The Marchioneſs, who was preſent, trembled at her diſſimulation, while the countenance of Lady Anne expreſſed her contempt.

ADELFRYDA herſelf was too well acquainted with Elizabeth not to doubt her marks of friendſhip; but, as there is nothing more winning than confidence, the Princeſs ſeemed to believe implicitly in what the Queen had ſaid to her; and followed her example, by looking over the the cauſes of the misfortunes which originated in reaſons of ſtate. She told her, that to take away every obſtacle, ſhe was ready to enter into any propoſals that could be made; that the tedioufneſs of her captivity had cauſed her to make ſome reflections, which had given her

as much contempt of greatneſs as ſhe ſaw ſhe had want of power to arrive at it; that ſhe ſought not after a noiſy, in preference to a pious life, but only eaſe and tranquility; and that ſhe ſhould eſteem herſelf ſufficiently happy, as ſoon as ſhe had obtained her freedom.

ELIZABETH was juſt going to reply; but on turning her head ſhe was greatly embarraſſed at perceiving the Duke of Alencon coming directly towards them. The Prince, who had not cloſed his correſpondence with the Queen, thought proper to make her a viſit; and this interview having been kept an entire ſecret, he had heard nothing of it but what he had juſt gathered from Elizabeth's domeſticks. After receiving this information, he was

ſome

ſome time in doubt, whether it were prudent for him to intrude himſelf; but the deſire of ſeeing the Princeſs, tranſported him above every reaſon which ought to have kept him back, and he cauſed himſelf to be conducted by one of the Queen's guards, to the place of meeting. It was a fatal moment; and his heart by a ſecret impulſe, involuntarily ſought for the perſon to whom it was attached before he even knew her. This young Prince had as yet been capable of nothing but ambition; and he had poſſibly paſſed his whole life without being ſenſible of any other paſſion, had ſhe not been a Princeſs, whoſe beauty permitted no one to view her with indifference.

ADELFRIDA

ADELFRIDA was at that time in the flower of her youth; and her beauty ſuffered no more from her misfortunes, than did her courage. She had a peculiar ſweetneſs in her eyes, which added to all her other graces; and the fatigues of her impriſonment had mingled a languiſhing ſo exquiſitely moving, that it pierced the very bottom of every ſoul who beheld her. A pale blue robe, ornamented with ſilver fringe, diſplayed to the beſt advantage, the fineſt figure in the world. The Duke was immediately dazzled; and finding the moſt charming woman in the perſon of the moſt unfortunate, he felt at firſt ſight all the tenderneſs that love and compaſſion could inſpire. Nor had he, unfortunately, diſſimulation enough

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to conceal his emotion from the linx-eyed Queen. Joining the adventure of the picture to the ſigns of ſurpriſe, which appeared in the Duke's face, her Majeſty was at no loſs to divine his intention; nor was this a very promiſing prelude to the ſoftening of her mind in favour of the Princeſs. His Highneſs's reflection was by this time awakened; and as ſoon as he had time to recover himſelf, he began to think how he could ward off the blow which threatened both himſelf and the unfortunate Princeſs. He judged that he ſhould ſtand in need of diſſimulation for the future — but it was too late 'ere he put in execution; the confuſion of his words, and the little ſpirits he diſcovered in apologizing for

for his intruſion, inſtructed her in too much. Elizabeth, to extricate herſelf from her perplexities with the Princeſs, was willing to turn the converſation any other way; and ſhe began to rally the Duke. Preſenting herſelf to Adelfrida, "Your party," ſaid ſhe, "is now likely to be more formidable than hitherto. His Highneſs's countenance witneſſeth that his heart is already for you; and I believe that you cannot deſire a mediator more affectionate to your intereſt." The Princeſs waited not for the Duke to make any reply; but being willing to bring Elizabeth back to he ſame diſcourſe which the Duke's arrival had interrupted, "Madam" ſaid ſhe, "I do not doubt, but that the Duke of Alencon would be

generous

generous enough to declare in behalf of an afflicted Princeſs; but after what your Majeſty hath been moſt graciouſly pleaſed to tell me, I believe I no longer want a mediator; and that I cannot have more powerful ſolicitors than the promiſes I have received from you." The Duke of Alencon was greatly perplexed what to do; and perceiving that he could not declare himſelf for the Princeſs, without creating a jealouſy in the Queen, he was therefore willing to withdraw. But Elizabeth, who believed ſhe ſhould want his preſence, the eaſier to break off this interview, detained him; and following her deſign, ſhe told him, with a rallying air, that ſince fortune had done ſo much, he muſt be the Princeſs's

ceſs's knight; and that it was his duty to releaſe her from her enchantment.

"'Tis for yourſelf, madam," ſaid the Duke, "that ſo fair an adventure was reſerved; and I am far from envying you the glory of it." The Queen, deſiring to put an end to a converſation that tormented her, at length renewed the promiſes ſhe had made the Princeſs: after which, pretending that as her health was not yet perfectly reſtored, and therefore would not permit her to remain any longer with the Princeſs, ſhe embraced her tenderly, and diſcovered ſo much ſenſibility at parting, that ſhe ſhed tears. The Duke was exceedingly ſorry to depart ſo ſoon from a perſon, the ſight of whom had afforded him the higheſt

pleaſure;

pleaſure; but there was no probability of bearing her company; and to attempt it had been annihilation. All therefore that he had to do, was to expreſs by his eyes the meaning of his heart. With a ſtruggle of reluctance he gave the Queen his hand, and led her to her coach, which was in waiting a few paces off. They had no ſooner retired, than Adelfrida threw herſelf on a couch, and ſobbed aloud. Lady Anne intreated to know the cauſe of her freſh ſorrow.

"Oh, my Anne, this day is a fatal day!" ſhe exclaimed.

"What of to-day?" replied her Ladyſhip.

"The Duke of Alencon!" ſaid ſhe, in a faultering tone, and hiding her bluſhing face on the boſom of her friend.

"I un-

"I underſtand you, my Adelfrida. You love the Duke; but fear not, your paſſion is returned. I prognoſticate that the eſteem is reciprocal. This is the very thing I could wiſh; for my ſanguine hopes are now brought to a criſis; and believe me, its the beſt thing that could have happened. Perhaps, through the medium of the Duke, you will regain your liberty."

ELIZABETH made the beſt of the time, while the Duke was handing her to her coach, to complete a reconciliation with him.

"I plainly perceive," ſaid ſhe, "that we are ſtill very angry; and that we ſhall want ſuch an opportunity as this, to make us friends again." The Duke had ſo far forgot the billet, which had given him

him ſo much vexation, and his mind was ſo buſy with other concerns, that at firſt he was at a loſs to know what the Queen meant. He anſwered her very coldly; but Elizabeth miſtaking it for good manners, told him that ſhe had obtained intelligence reſpecting two billets which were ſent to him and the Earl with her ſignature; that in conſequence of which, ſhe now perceived he could not conceal his reſentment; that the Earl had repreſented her in a very baſe light to him; but that the whole was a trick of his own. As a proof of this, ſhe added, that his Lordſhip was very dexterous in counterfeiting any perſon's hand-writing; that he had written that which he had ſhewn his Highneſs on the cover of a letter

of

of hers that ſhe had been obliged to write to him on ſtate affairs. All this ſhe invented in order to regain the Duke's good opinion: but, being too well convinced to the contrary, he oppoſed cunning to cunning; and continued totally ignorant of every thing ſhe ſaid reſpecting the billets. Elizabeth, who was well perſuaded from her laſt diſcourſe with the Earl of Leiceſter, that the Duke of Alencon was now imitating her own diſſimulating manner, took it ſo ill, that ſhe could not forbear reproaching him. The Duke, however, ſteadily bent on a little retaliation, obſtinately continued his diſguiſe. Her Majeſty preſſed him to accompany her in her coach, and to partake the pleaſures of the country with her for a few

days;

days; but he excuſed himſelf, by telling her that he feared it would incommode her. He immediately took the road to London, on purpoſe to obviate any ſuſpicion that might ariſe in her breaſt; but he travelled only four miles; at which place Du Lac was in waiting for him.

His Highneſs no ſooner arrived, than he related his adventure to his valet with all the genuine marks of ſincerity that attend a paſſion in its birth. Du Lac was one of the moſt proper men in the world for an intrigue. The Governor of the caſtle where Adelfrida was confined had married a French lady, of whom he had ſome knowledge; therefore, he reſolved to avail himſelf of her, in order to accompliſh his purpoſe.

THIS was not done without ſome difficulty; the Governor's life was at ſtake, and the Queen had given him freſh orders, which redoubled his fidelity and ſtrictneſs: but at length the Prince's liberality brought about the appointed night. All things being properly diſpoſed, the Duke came to a village, near the caſtle, diſguiſed and without any equipage, where he waited for the ſignal the Governor was to give him.

UNFORTUNATELY the Duke's unexpected arrival at the place of meeting with Adelfrida, gave the Queen ſtrong ſuſpicions, which were increaſed by the diſorder that the ſight of the Princeſs had created in his countenance, and by the coldneſs he had expreſſed towards her in the laſt diſcourſe

they

they held together. To ſet her mind, therefore, at eaſe, ſhe placed ſpies all round the caſtle; that ſhe might readily be acquainted with all that ſhould paſs. The plans of the Prince could not be concerted without ſeveral journeys. Elizabeth was informed of them; and her ſuſpicions were greatly augmented, becauſe ſhe was eaſily alarmed. Not ſatisfied with the precautions ſhe had taken, ſhe was reſolved to ſeek her own information in perſon. Secrecy was neceſſary for her deſign; the Marchioneſs, therefore, was alone acquainted with it. Accordingly, they pretended to make the Princeſs a viſit; and arrived at the caſtle before any one knew of their coming. The Governor and the Queen had an interview alone, while Madame de Navarre,

wrote with a pencil a note to the Duke, the contents of which ran thus:

" I fear the deſign your High-
" neſs has of viſiting the lovely
" Adelfrida to-morrow evening,
" is no longer a ſecret; and that
" the Queen is fully acquainted
" with the whole of the affair. Send
" therefore, as ſoon as you poſſibly
" can, a truſty meſſenger, with an
" account to the Governor that
" you are ſuddenly taken ill; and
" that it will be impoſſible for you
" to viſit the caſtle till you are re-
" covered. However, you may
" come according to your own ap-
" pointment; but do not fail to
" ſend that meſſage. Leave the
" reſt to the management of
" Your diſintereſted Friend,
" VIOLETTE DE NAVARRE."

THIS

This the Marchioneſs ſent by a truſty domeſtick, on whom ſhe could rely.—In the interval, Elizabeth being ſhut up with the Governor, and looking on him with a menacing eye, ſaid,

"Is it thus you perform the commiſſions that are given you? and have I entruſted you with the keeping of this caſtle, to be betrayed by your correſpondence and ſecret practices with my enemies?—Go!" continued ſhe. "Get out of my ſight, or confeſs immediately a fault, which you have not been able to conceal from me."

The poor man, believing the Queen knew the whole of the negociations, threw himſelf upon his knees, and faithfully related

to

to her all that had paſſed. After he had given over ſpeaking, her Majeſty ſent for Madame de Navarre, and informed her of the whole tranſaction. While they were yet talking, a ſervant entered to tell the Governor that ſome one wanted him. The Queen ordered the perſon into the room where they were, and turned herſelf to the window, that ſhe might hear the meſſage without being known.—It was Du Lac, who came according to Madame de Navarre's appointment. As ſoon as ſhe heard the meſſage ſhe was ſatisfied, and earneſtly wiſhed that the Duke might now end his days. When Du Lac had delivered his meſſage, and departed, the Queen and the Marchioneſs returned; the former

not

not doubting, but that the Duke was really ill.

When his Highneſs came at night, the Governor at firſt refuſed to admit him; but a heavy purſe ſilenced every ſcruple and the Duke was introduced into the Princeſs's apartment. At firſt ſhe was diſpleaſed at his preſumption for entering her chamber at night; but her anger preſently left her, and the following converſation took place.

"I confeſs, Madam," throwing himſelf at her feet, "that my preſumption is great; and that nothing but the motive that influences me to it, can ſerve for an excuſe. I own, therefore, that I can no longer behold, without emotion, ſo fair, ſo innocent a perſon as yourſelf,

deprived of liberty, and rendered a victim even to the moſt inveterate reſentment. Perhaps you will call it enthuſiaſm, if I tell you, that you are a Princeſs capable of ſwaying a univerſal ſceptre; and to whom all the world ought cheerfully to yield obedience. Until I had the honour of ſeeing you, I was contented to lament your misfortunes with the reſt Europe; but now, methinks, I owe you ſomething more than unprofitable compaſſion; and I ſhould reproach myſelf eternally as a coward, if I heſitated to mingle my blood with my tears. 'Tis this blood, madam, which I now come to offer you, together with the life which it animates; and for a purpoſe too that will be recorded as noble in future annals.

nals. It is to deliver you from the cruel tyranny of perfidious Elizabeth; and I flatter myſelf that fortune has not brought me into England for any other purpoſe than to re-eſtabliſh you in the rank that is due to your birth."

"I ought to confeſs my obligations to your Highneſs," replied the captive Princeſs, "for theſe generous ſentiments, which you profeſs towards me; but pardon me, if I tell you, that notwithſtanding I am ſo much a ſtranger to the world, I am well acquainted with the deſign which has brought you into this realm; and I am inclined to believe, that the intereſt you ſeem willing to take in my misfortunes, is no very proper expedient to gain

Elizabeth's

Elizabeth's heart, and to ſhare with her the Britiſh throne."

"Madam, I will not diſguiſe any of my ſentiments from you; the hope of a crown is a powerful allurement to a young Prince's heart; and I confeſs, with ſhame, that I was ſomewhat deluded with it; but I knew neither the Princeſs Adelfrida's beauty, nor Elizabeth's deceit, when I ſuffered myſelf to be overcome with the glaring phantom. She has betrayed me, madam, as well as you; and I have no leſs reaſon to hate her, than yourſelf. I will ſay no more now; having no deſire to triſle with time, ſo exceeding precious, in a relation which would be as tedious, as unprofitable. Be only perſuaded, that I am under no tie, either of

love

love or of friendſhip, with the Queen, which may hinder me from binding myſelf to your intereſt; and that fortune could not do any thing for me, more glorious, than leaving me the means of finiſhing the courſe of your diſgraces, or partaking with you the ſeverity of them."

"But what is your Highneſs's deſign? and what likelihood have you to deliver me from this place?" replied Adelfrida.

"Only give me leave to act, madam," ſaid the Duke. "I deſire nothing but your conſent; and provided that you approve of what I ſhall do, I will warrant ſucceſs."

"Liberty is ſo ſweet, that I muſt be my own enemy to refuſe your kind interpoſition; but methinks

methinks, in the preſent ſtate of affairs, nothing ought to be precipitated. You were witneſs to the converſation I had with the Queen the other day; wait, therefore, a few weeks, and if ſhe does not keep her promiſe, I give you my full conſent to act as you think proper."

He then pleaded in love's pathetic terms, his own paſſion; nor did he ceaſe thoſe eloquent perſuaſions till he had obtained her promiſe, that if ſhe ever gave her hand to any man, it ſhould be to him alone. Theſe were bliſsful moments to his ſoul; and he retired in extaſy to meditate upon the beſt plans he could purſue, to procure himſelf ſo invaluable a prize.

When

When Elizabeth conſidered the late affair over, ſhe thought there muſt be more in it than ſhe was acquainted with. With an artful meanneſs, therefore, ſhe ſent for Adelfrida's head attendant, and by dint of gold, all-powerful gold, got the whole truth from her: that the Duke's illneſs was only feigned; that he viſited the Princeſs the evening at firſt propoſed; and that almoſt the whole of their converſation reſpected Adelfrida's releaſement. She farther informed her Majeſty, that ſhe ſlept in the next apartment to the Princeſs's; and conſequently ſhe had heard all that had paſſed. The Queen diſmiſſed the attendant; but was greatly embarraſſed what ſteps to purſue. The converſation which the domeſtick had repeated,

repeated, was a rigorous trial of her patience; and, if ſhe received any ſatisfaction in diſcerning the Duke of Alencon's ſentiments, ſhe had much more vexation to ſee herſelf the object of his ill opinion. The expreſſions he had made uſe of ſo highly exaſperated her againſt him, that ſhe would willingly, in the firſt impreſs of rage, have proceeded to the utmoſt extremities, were it not that ſhe had too many meaſures to negociate with France, to permit her to give looſe to her reſentment. Her fury being reſtrained on that ſide, was, in conſequence, wholly turned on the unhappy Princeſs. She could not imagine, that the Duke of Alencon's advances proceeded either from love, friendſhip, or compaſſion; but ſhe anticipated

that

that ſome political motives had induced him to undertake ſo bold and difficult an enterpriſe. She looked upon the Princeſs as an ambitious rival; who ſought only to aſcend the throne, and who would make uſe of every exertion to ſnatch the ſceptre from her hands. With ſuch perſuaſions as theſe, Elizabeth reſolved to reſtore the Princeſs Adelfrida to her liberty that ſhe might diſpatch her with leſs noiſe, and ſecure herſelf with more eaſe, from the ſuſpicions of being the means of it. She immediately acquainted Madame de Navarre of her intentions to releaſe the Princeſs: and the firſt convenient moment they went together to the place of confinement..

ADELLRIDA was ſurpriſed to ſee the Queen enter her chamber; who,

who, accoſting her with a ſmiling and flattering air, ſaid, "I come, to ſurpriſe you very agreeably; by aſſuring you, how happy I am in having it my power to ſet you entirely at liberty. I have at length overcome the ſcruples of my privy-council; and I ſhall now take pleaſure in ſeeing you happy."

It is eaſy to imagine the aſtoniſhment of the Princeſs upon this occaſion. She returned her Majeſty a thouſand thanks; and prepared to accompany her from a place that had not been very agreeable to her. She ſought Lady Anne, and informed her of the Queen's kindneſs; who congratulated her on being once more at liberty.

"Ah! my friend," ſaid Adelfrida, "I plainly perceive that my life

life is to be nothing but a compilation of miſeries; and that the end of one misfortune is to me only the beginning of another. I am well acquainted with Elizabeth's diſſimulation; nor can I think, ſhe would have given me my liberty, if ſhe had not been informed of my interview with the Duke.

"Do not, my ſweet friend," ſaid Lady Anne, "prognoſticate that which afflicts you; nor ſeek not in futurity miſchiefs which I hope will never arrive. The liberty you have obtained originated, perhaps, in the promiſe her Majeſty made you ſome days ago. Your patience has vanquiſhed the the malice of your deſtiny. Cheer up yourſelf, then, my Adelfrida, and poiſon not the joy which you ought to feel on this occaſion, by

fears more tormenting than your misfortunes. Your releaſement will furniſh you with means to acquire the Queen's confidence; and were it even true, that ſhe contrived ſome new miſchief againſt you, will it not be much eaſier for you to defend yourſelf from it, than though you were ſtill to remain in confinement? All theſe reaſons did not ſilence the Princeſs's fears; nor could the affected confidence of Elizabeth, ſufficiently diſſipate them.

Her Majeſty took her immediately round the country with her; gave her a ſhare of all her pleaſures; and even imparted to her ſome of her ſecrets. Nothing paſſed between them but proteſtations of ſincere affection and friendſhip; nor had a patched reconciliation ever a fairer appearance

pearance. A friendſhip was likewiſe cemented between the Marchioneſs and Adelfrida, which terminated only with life.

ELIZABETH, the better to conceal her diſſimulation, and being of a romantic diſpoſition, gave a grant tournament, in honour of Adelfrida's return to the court.

The day arrived; a royal throne was erected, aſcended by ſix ſteps, on which Elizabeth ſat; on her right hand was ſeated the lovely Adelfrida; on her left ſtood the Marchioneſs; and by the ſide of the Princeſs ſtood Lady Anne. The tournament commenced; but was of very little conſequence for ſome time. At length, however, a Knight entered the liſt. His armour was covered with blue ſattin; his ſcarf, which hung over his left ſhoulder, and tied on the

right ſide, was of a pale jounquil colour, edged with ſilver fringe; and his nodding plumage created a ſilent awe. He proclaimed aloud, that thoſe who diſputed the beauty of Violette Marchioneſs de Navarre, he challenged to a ſingle combat. A Knight immediately came forward; his armour was covered with white, which was formed into ſhells by ſmall diamonds; his ſcarf was violet colour, edged with pearl; his helmet was ornamented with rubbies; and his plumage was of a ſnowy white. He declared Adelfrida's beauty to be ſuperior to the Marchioneſs's, and accepted the challenge. The fight was long and dubious, and ſhewed a vaſt deal of ſkill in the combatants; but the Knight in blue having

having received a wound, as he warded off the blow from his antagoniſt, fell, and Adelfrida's Knight was proclaimed conqueror. He received, therefore, the ring from her own hands; which was the preſent for the one that proved moſt victorious. However, he did not diſrobe himſelf of his armour; but ſoon after diſappeared. Adelfrida was unacquainted with the name of her champion; but the wounded Knight proved to be the Duke of Somerſet; of whom proper means were taken for his recovery.

It will not be improper to give a ſhort ſketch of the hiſtory of Madame de Navarre. She was deprived at a very early age of her mother: and left to the

the ſole care of a moroſe and auſtere father. His will was a law, from which no one dared to depart; and the very tone of his voice made every one tremble. She was brought up at a convent till the age of ſixteen. She then returned home, and had the government of her father's houſe. Her beauty and accompliſhments cauſed her to be looked upon as a phenomenon. Her admirers were numerous; among whom was the Marquis de Navarre, an old man, whoſe temper was ſomewhat like her father's. Violette very much diſliked him; but her father, on the contrary, being attached to riches and ſplendor, ordered his daughter to look on him as her future huſband.

BOOK THE THIRD.

" ——— her fondeſt wiſhes croſt,
" Now mourns herſelf, thus early loſt.
" Dim haggard looks, and clouded o'er
" with care;
" Points out to pity's tears, the poor un-
" happy fair."

ABOUT this time, the Duke of Somerſet viſited Paris; where he ſaw, and became enamoured with the attraction of the fair and beautiful Violette. Their love was mutual; and Violette regarded the Marquis with more hatred than ever. The Duke made ſplendid offers to her father, but they were all rejected.

ed. The old gentleman in the early part of his life had received a conſiderable injury from an Engliſh youth; on which account he hated England, and all who belonged to it. In vain were the entreaties of the Duke, or the tears of his daughter; he continued inexorable to either. The one was forbid the houſe; and the other confined to her chamber, till the marriage could be celebrated with the Marquis.

VIOLETTA, as her father had forgot the duty of a parent, conſidered herſelf as releaſed from the obligations to fulfil that of a daughter. By the aſſiſtance of her waiting-maid, therefore, ſhe eloped with the Duke; but the unfortunate lovers had not reached ten miles, before they were overtaken

overtaken by the enraged father; who forced her from his arms, and hurried her back to her miſerable home. She entreated him not to oblige her to marry the Marquis, he promiſed that he would not, provided ſhe would take a ſolemn oath never to have any thing more to ſay to the Duke. She immediately knelt down, and took the oath that was to deprive her of the only ſolace of life. No ſooner had ſhe done this hateful deed, than her father took her by the hand, and led her into the next room: but alas! what was her ſurpriſe to ſee an altar prepared, a prieſt in waiting, and the decrepid old Marquis de Navarre dreſſed in bridal pomp. Her ſenſes failed her, and ſhe ſunk to the ground.

With

With ſome difficulty ſhe was recovered — the prieſt commenced the ceremony. — Violletta cloſed her eyes with diſguſt, and waved her hand for him to deſiſt—In vain—the ceremony was concluded—and ſhe became—a—miſerable wife.—It had ſuch an effect on her mind, that her intellects became diſordered; but at the death of her father, which happened two years after her marriage, her ſenſes returned, and ſhe appeared to be placidly reſigned. About a year followed, when ſhe was delivered of a daughter; and about four months after the Marquis died, and left her a young independent widow.

THE Duke of Somerſet, as ſoon as he heard of the marriage of Violetta, returned to England

[in

in deſpair; where, by the perſuaſions of his friends, he married an amiable lady, who preſented him with a boy and two girls in the courſe of three years; but loſt her life at the birth of the laſt. Thus the Duke became a widower juſt at the time the Marquis died. He therefore again viſited France, and offered his hand and fortune once more to Violette; but ſhe was obliged to refuſe him, on account of her vow.

All proper attention being paid to the vanquiſhed Duke, he ſoon recovered, and was attended home by the Earl of Warwick.

About this time there was a rumour in London to the following purport. Lady Catharine Gray, daughter to the Duke of Suffolk

Suffolk, and ſiſter to Lady Jane, had privately eſpouſed the Earl of Hertford, who was gone to France on his travels. The marriage was ſoon diſcovered by Lady Catharine's pregnancy; and Elizabeth was ſo incenſed when ſhe heard of it, that ſhe ſent her priſoner to the Tower; whither alſo her huſband was committed when he returned to England. As he could not prove his marriage by legal evidence, it was annulled by the Archbiſhop of Canterbury. Nevertheleſs the Earl found means to viſit Catharine after her delivery; and ſhe conceived again. For which he was fined five thouſand pounds; and after a long confinement, was obliged to relinquiſh Catharine by a formal deed.

THE child, with which ſhe was pregnant a ſecond time, died; but the former was a boy. The Duke of Somerſet's wife being a relation to the Earl of Hertford, his Grace, in honour to her memory, and from motives of humanity, took him privately under his protection; and all the world thought it was his own. It paſſed for his ſecond ſon, and went by the name of Lord Henry Seymour, the family name of the Duke of Somerſet.

As affairs of this nature are ſeldom laſting ſubjects, they ſoon gave place to other topics.

ADELFRIDA was a Princeſs greatly beloved and admired; and her having a great number of friends, there was a continual ſource of converſation. Every one rejoiced to ſee her at liberty; and

ſome

ſome even wiſhed to have her ſeated on the throne.

Juſt at this time the Duke of Alencon was neceſſitated to viſit France, in conſequence of the death of his father. His title, therefore, changed to that of Duke of Anjou. His affairs in France were no ſooner ſettled, than he was ſolicited to go to the aſſiſtance of the revolters in the Netherlands; he therefore put himſelf at he head of their forces, to complete their deliverance from the tyrannical dominion of Spain. The young Prince neglected nothing that might raiſe his fame; animated with the hope that his valour would reach Adelfrida's ears. This was a cutting ſtroke to Elizabeth's pride; tho' ſhe contrived to conceal her reſentment againſt the Prince, which

to

to appearance, had lain dormant for ſome time. She wrote ſeveral letters to him, wherein ſhe exerted her flattering powers; and with ambiguous excuſes for her conduct, and throwing out her former baits, ſhe once more endeavoured to draw him into England. The following is the purport of one of her epiſtles:

"SIR,

"My heart is too much intereſted in your concerns, to delay "expreſſing my joy at the ſucceſs "of your glorious enterprize. "It is ſomewhat pleaſant to find, "that the Spaniſh towns defend "themſelves no better than the "ladies' hearts. Nor am I leſs "rejoiced at the recollection of "my choice; ſince your conduct

"entitles

" entitles you to the ſuperiority
" over all the Princes of Europe.
" I cannot, I will not, reprove
" myſelf for yielding to the in-
" treaties of a Prince, who is
" equally irreſiſtable, both in love
" and in war. If I have any
" thing to afflict me on the oc-
" caſion, it is the cool manner
" in which you parted from me.
" Return, I conjure you, re-
" turn and free me from the
" continual fears which the dan-
" gers of your ſituation expoſes
" you to. My anxieties hourly in-
" creaſe, leſt the fortune of war
" ſhould rob me in a moment of
" your exiſtance; and add a dim-
" neſs to thoſe laurels of glory,
" which have coſt you ſo much
" fatigue. Ah! were it poſſible,
" rather than you ſhould die a
" victim

" victim to the ſword, I would
" ranſom your life at the expence
" of my own. Haſten then, my
" dear Anjou, to me; and I hope
" you will have reaſon to confeſs,
" that your victories in Flanders
" yield no ſuch pleaſures, as reign-
" ing in the affections of
" ELIZABETH."

THE hopes of once more gazing on the beauties of Adelfrida, whoſe picture the Duke had always preſerved, made him prepare for England; and, contrary to the entreaties of Du Lac, and the preſſing ſolicitations of the Flemmings, he departed, and ſpeedily arrived in London.

THE ſight of his Highneſs, gave the Queen a great deal of joy. Time had worn away a great part of her anger; and his

good qualities had almoſt led her again to wiſh him her huſband. She congratulated him on his ſafe arrival, and ſhewed him a thouſand marks of her eſteem; ſo that this interview afforded mutual ſatisfaction.

THE Prince was of an age in which the love of glory inſpires with noble undertakings. It was a matter worthy of his generoſity, to re-eſtabliſh an injured Princeſs. He found ſomething ſo heroical in the idea, that it animated his courage; and the hopes of revenging Elizabeth's duplicity, by marrying ſo fair a creature, gave additional alacrity to his reſolution. The firſt thing he had to do, was to engage the Princeſs in his deſign. His heart could no longer conceal the paſſion which poſſeſſed it. He had

long

long desired, with pressing ardour, an opportunity of discovering his intentions; but it was next to impossible for him to have a private interview with the Princess, she was so narrowly watched by the Queen, who scarce ever left her to herself.

Love, fond love, can contrive numerous little arts to deceive its opposers. The Duke's did so, and succeeded admirably. Being one morning on a visit to the Queen, he approached the window on which the Princess was seated. By her side lay her gloves; one of which he took in his hand, and by a designed accident let it fall into a little garden of flowers that was under. He ran hastily to take it up again; but Adelfrida, not being willing to give him so much trouble, stepped round another

way; by which means they both met on the ſtairs, which led into the garden. The Duke addreſſed her to this purpoſe:

"I preſume on your pardon, madam, when I take the liberty to remind you of the promiſes you made me at our laſt interview." The Princeſs bluſhing, declared, that the knowledge of her promiſe had quite deſerted her.

"Indeed!" replied the Duke, "they are too indelibly written on *my* heart, ever to be eraſed. Do you not remember how kindly you promiſed me, that if you ever gave your hand to any man, I ſhould be that happy perſon?"

"Yes," replied ſhe, "I now remember ſomething of it; nor would it be pleaſing to deviate from my word."

"Will

"Will you conſent then, my deareſt Adelfrida, to a private marriage? If you will meet me to-morrow afternoon at the houſe of Madame de Navarre, all things ſhall be ſettled." With a bluſh of ſenſibility and faultering accents, ſhe conſented. He preſſed her lily hand to his lips, and ſhe, having caſt round her eyes, ſaw the ring which ſhe had beſtowed on him the day of the tournament. Her cheeks were now of the deepeſt vermillion; the tints of which remained when ſhe entered the room where the Queen was. Elizabeth, who let nothing eſcape her notice, obſerved it immediately; and his Highneſs entering a moment after, with the remains of his emotion, ſhe judged that the fall of the glove, was not the effect of chance, but

that it was a premeditated ſcheme. She therefore rallied them, but in vain endeavoured to diſſemble her chagrin. The tone of her voice had nothing in it of raillery, and made too obvious a demonſtration of her ſecret jealouſy. The converſation was too delicate and perplexing to be of long duration; and the Princeſs, who was very impatient to be alone, was the firſt that broke it, and retired to her apartment. She ſat down, and wrote Madame de Navarre a particular account of the whole; and inſtantly diſpatched a truſty page with it to the Marchioneſs's houſe, at Chelſea. She then went to the chamber of Lady Anne Haſtings, who had an apartment at court, to aſk her

her advice. Her counſel was much to this purpoſe:

"You cannot deſire, my dear Adelfrida, a lover more worthy of you than this young Prince. Has he not a moſt exalted mind? Is he not poſſeſſed of the fineſt ſentiments of generoſity? For my part, I believe, fortune brought him into England for you alone; and it is ſurely a favourable opportunity to free you from Elizabeth's tyranny. Perhaps if you neglect it now, you may bid adieu to peace and liberty for ever."

Theſe were cogent reaſons, ſupported alſo by the impreſſions which the Duke had made on the Princeſs's heart; but wiſhing to hide her inclinations, under a pretext of policy, ſhe replied,

"I ſhould, indeed, have been glad to have had the Duke of Alencon

for my protector; but I cannot even hope for ſuch a connection — the circumſtance of the caſe excludes every hope. The advances he has made to her Majeſty, are ſufficient demonſtrations of his ambition; and though the marriage has been a little delayed, the period for its completion is not very diſtant. He is far from forſaking the hopes of a crown, of which he is almoſt aſſured, to unite himſelf to a Princeſs with a feeble fortune, and a ſhadowy title. Nevertheleſs, if I thought that he was generous enough to ſacrifice all theſe advantages to the paſſion which he has expreſſed for me, I would not be anſwerable for my own heart; for I confeſs, that I have never ſeen any one with whom I could ſo readily blend the viciſſitudes of life."

WHILE

WHILE her Highneſs was thus converſing with her friend, Elizabeth was perplexing herſelf with the adventure of the glove. She began to conjecture conſequences and effects, juſt as the Princeſs had foreſeen ſhe would; and her vexation would have given looſe to the ſtorm which was long gathering in the inmoſt receſs of her heart, had ſhe not choſen to manage the intereſt of her love, as well as that of her revenge. For this purpoſe ſhe endeavoured to aſſure herſelf of the Duke of Anjou, before ſhe deſtroyed the innocent Princeſs. It is uſual for perſons who are diſturbed by contending paſſions to change their reſolutions and ſentiments, according to the different impreſſions of either. Elizabeth's heart had long ſince experienced changes;

ges; and it being equally divided between the love of her authority, and the eſteem ſhe had for the Duke, theſe two paſſions were ſuperior by turns; ſo that her mind could not fix upon any reſolution. At length, however, her inclination for the Prince being very much augmented, and her jealouſy on account of Adelfrida's beauty having turned the balance to the ſide of love, ſhe reſolved to do her utmoſt endeavours to leſſen the attractions of ſo dangerous a rival.

THE next day Adelfrida, attended only by Lady Anne, repaired to the houſe of the Marchioneſs, where the Duke was waiting. Soon after they were ſeated, his Highneſs thus addreſſed the Princeſs, "Madam, I feel myſelf happy in realizing the favour

vour of your company, agreeably to the hopes which you kindly granted me yeſterday; and I now wait with anxiety for the knowledge of my deſtiny from your own lips. I wiſh, my deareſt Adelfrida, to aſſure you, that I own no other ambition than that of ſerving you; and that I am ready to renounce all the empires in the world, to ſubmit myſelf to the dominion you have acquired over my heart. Speak then, moſt devoted woman," continued he, kneeling, "and be aſſured, that I eſteem it more glorious to remain ever at your feet, than to be upon a throne, that is contaminated by uſurpation and tyranny."

"I ſhould be ſorry," replied the Princeſs, at the ſame time obliging him to riſe, "to be the means

means of diſappointing your fortune; and notwithſtanding what you tell me, I believe I cannot do any thing for you, that may recompenſe the loſs of a crown."

"I am not happy enough," replied the Duke, "to have a crown to loſe for your ſake; ſince heaven has beſtowed none on me; and if I were an accomplice in Elizabeth's crimes, that I might ſhare with her your ſpoils, my ambition would be contemptible. As an indifferent perſon, my heart would endeavour to ſatisfy its pride, by means leſs ignoble, and more commendable, than that of uſurpation. The crown of England is what I no longer covet, under its preſent circumſtances. To you it belongs; and if I had any deſire for ſuch an elevation, it would be with you only that my heart would

conſent

conſent to ſhare it. Explain yourſelf, then, once more, moſt amiable women; and if it be only the care of my fortune that reſtrains you, be aſſured, that however you treat me, I ſhall never deſire any other fate than that which may follow you."

"How preſſing you are," ſaid ſhe, bluſhing, and holding down her head; "what more would you have me tell you? Ought not this interview to acquaint you with all that you can wiſh? Remember alſo, that there are confeſſions, which a woman, in prudence, cannot make."

"Come, come," ſaid Madame de Navarre, "enough of heroics to-day. Take my advice, and let me call in my chaplain, who is ready to attend you. The entreaties of the Duke, and the ſolicitations

citations of her friends, deprived her of every ſentiment of decorum; and ſhe conſented. The chaplain attended, and the nuptials were ſolemnized. The Duke then embraced Adelfrida as his bride; and immediately exclaim-with the French author:

" Qu'un Roi eſt heureux lorſque le ciel
" lui donne,
" La main d'une ſi rare et ſi belle per-
" ſonne?

AFTER ſtaying ſome time, Adelfrida and Lady Anne returned to court. Her Ladyſhip was the principal Lady in waiting. Through her the Duke was every night introduced to the chamber of Adelfrida.

THREE months of tranquility paſſed; when one day, the Queen addreſſed the Duke in the following manner;

" I am

"I am aware, Sir, that my delays occaſion you to form an ill opinion of my ſincerity; and you may, perhaps, have conjectured, that I can pay no regard to truth, while I neglect to perform my promiſes. But by a little cool reflection upon my ſituation, you may draw concluſions for my juſtification, which, will I hope, ſuſpend the ſeverity of your judgment. One part of the parliament, you know, has objected to my marrying; and I fear there will be ſome difficulty in obtaining their conſent. I ſtill, however, have hopes to bring it about. This ring I give you, as a pledge of my ſincerity; and when you look on it, be aſſured that I ſhall be ready to conclude our union, immediately as I have it in my power."

THESE conceſſions of Elizabeth were not without foundation: ſince it was evident that one part of the parliament did oppoſe her marriage; and that the intereſt of the Proteſtant religion, of which they were apprehenſive, was the principal cauſe of all their ſcruples. However the Duke accepted of the ring, and they parted. He was careful to conceal this diſcourſe from the ears of Adelfrida; fearing, leſt it ſhould make her uneaſy.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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